

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr:

As you consider the fiscal year 2017 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for funding Rural Utility Service (RUS) Electric Loans at the same level as last year, a level lower than requested by the President.

Consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives generate less than five percent of the nation's electric power but maintain nearly half the nation's electric distribution lines. Electric cooperatives' distribution systems cover 75 percent of this country's land mass while serving 12 percent of American electric consumers. Electric cooperatives use RUS Electric Loans to finance electricity generation and distribution and provide affordable, reliable electric service to approximately 42 million people every day.

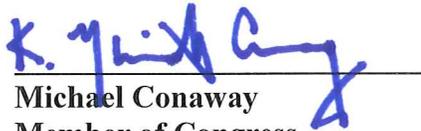
As you know, these loans are repaid with interest and have an extraordinary track record of repayment. RUS Electric Loans also contribute to deficit reduction. In fiscal year 2017 alone, electric loan repayments will net nearly \$300 million to the U.S. Treasury.

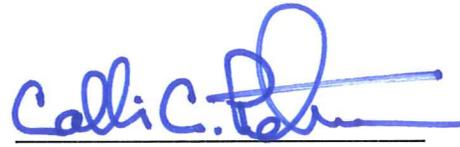
The President's Budget recommends that the total loan amount be directed toward specific purposes. Instead, we suggest RUS lending continue to be driven by the needs of the borrower rather than the type of project proposed. This flexibility will help meet the diverse challenges of RUS electric borrowers and ensure loans are available whether the

project is for environmental upgrades to current generation, the construction of renewable or natural gas generation, or the development of new baseload generation.

Lowering the U.S. deficit and keeping consumer co-op electric bills affordable are mutually beneficial goals we can all support. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Michael Conaway
Member of Congress


Collin Peterson
Member of Congress

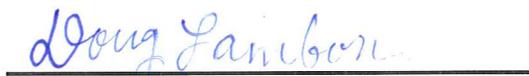

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress

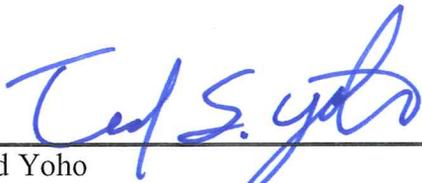

David Scott
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Walter Jones
Member of Congress

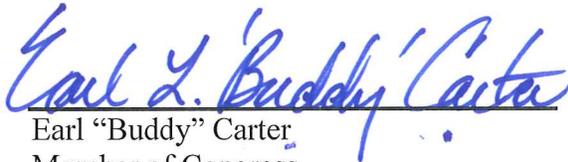

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

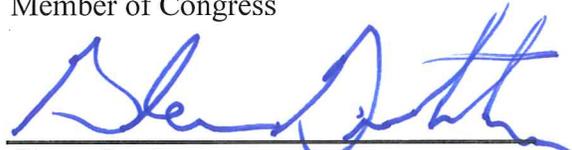

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress


Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

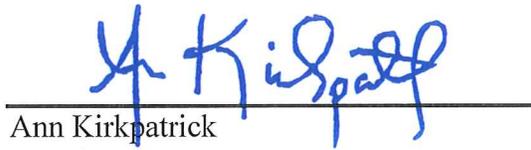

Richard Hanna
Member of Congress


David Rouzer
Member of Congress


Earl "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress


Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

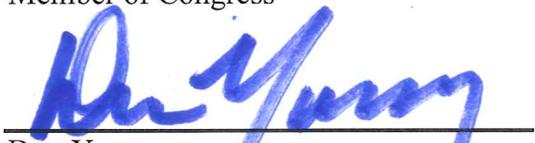

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Shelia Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress


Paul Gosar
Member of Congress


Rod Blum
Member of Congress


Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress

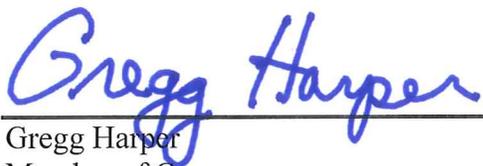

French Hill
Member of Congress


Will Hurd
Member of Congress


Steve Russell
Member of Congress

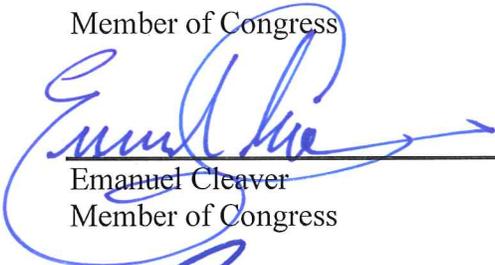

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress


Phil Roe
Member of Congress


Gregg Harper
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

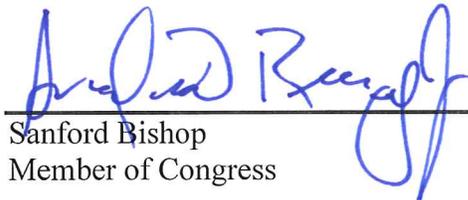

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

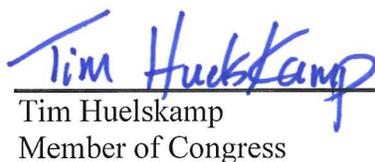

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress


Keyth Cramer
Member of Congress

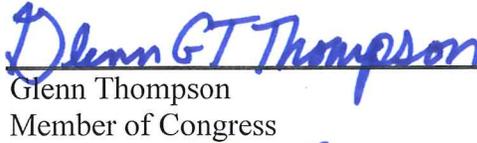

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

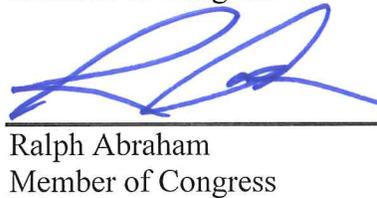

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

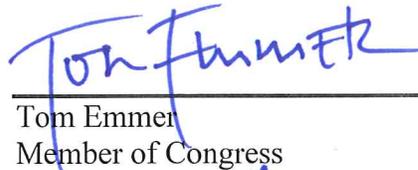

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress


Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress


Dan Benishek
Member of Congress


Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress


Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress

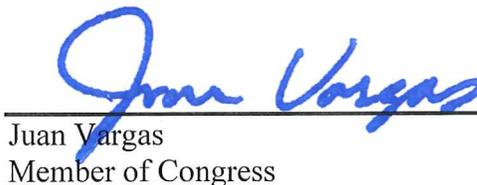

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress


Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany

Charles Boustany
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Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko
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Ryan Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Andy Barr

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Mark Walker

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

John Kline

John Kline
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Mike Bost

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Filmon Vela

Filmon Vela
Member of Congress

Diane Black

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Sam Graves

Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



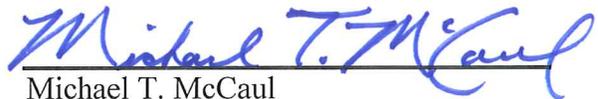
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



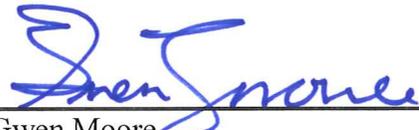
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



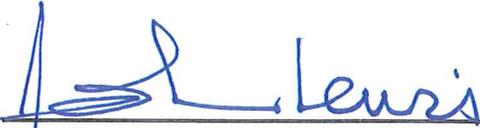
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



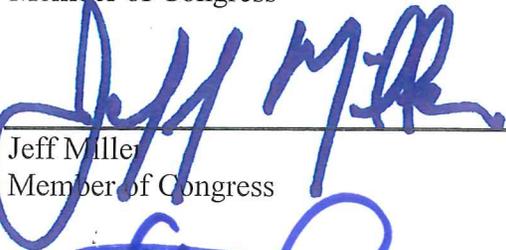
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



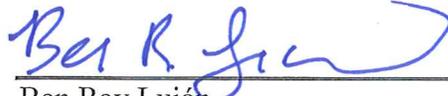
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



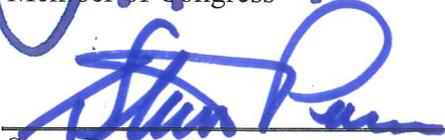
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



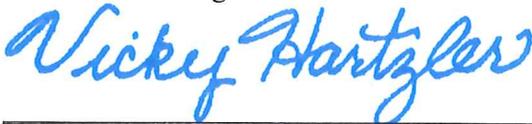
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



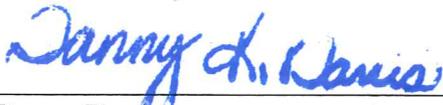
Richard Nolan
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Danny Davis
Member of Congress



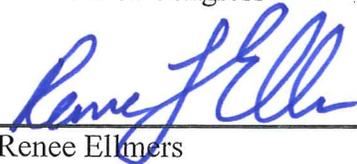
Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



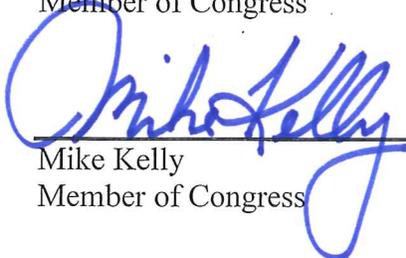
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



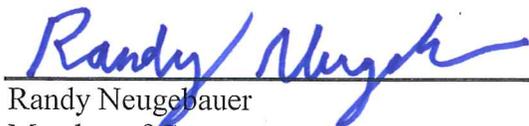
Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



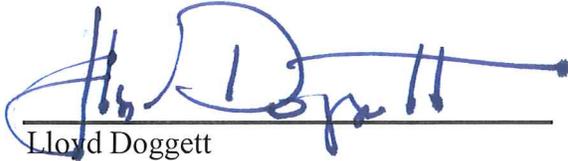
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



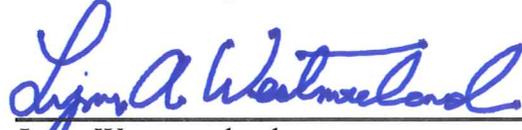
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



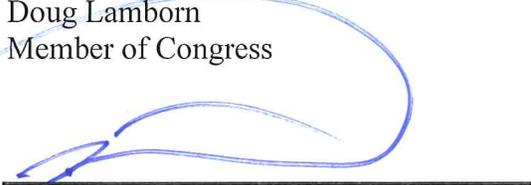
Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



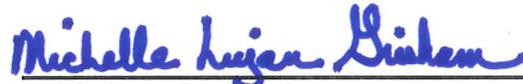
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



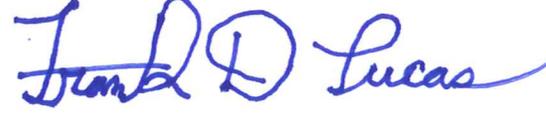
Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



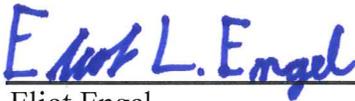
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



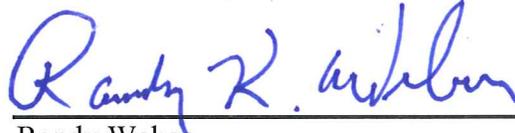
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



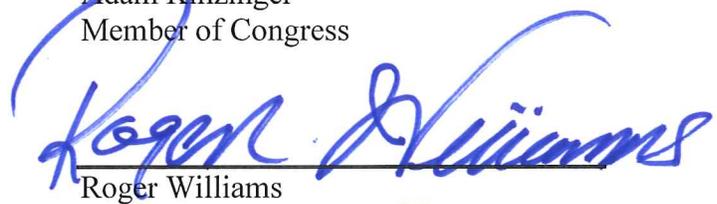
Rich Nugent
Member of Congress



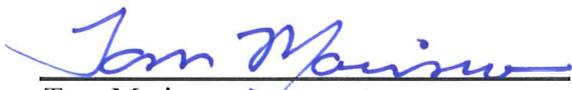
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Scott Rigell
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



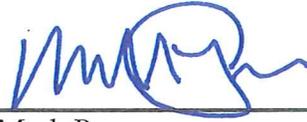
Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Mark Takai
Member of Congress



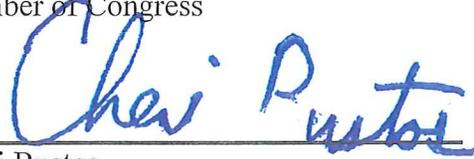
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



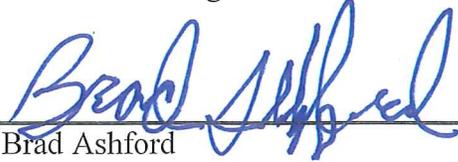
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



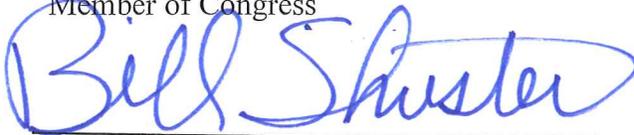
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



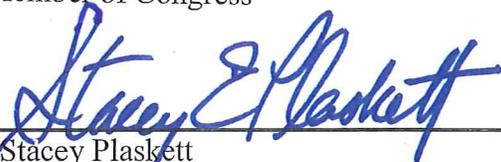
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



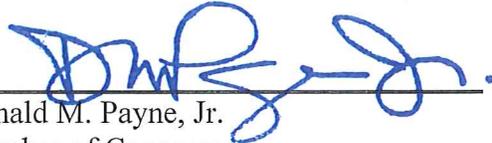
Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



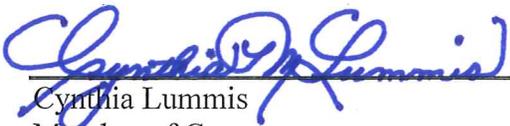
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Steve Knight
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

CPM

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Martha McSally

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Bobby

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Reid Ribble

Reid Ribble
Member of Congress

Cresent Hardy

Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress

Chris Collins

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

David Loebsack

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

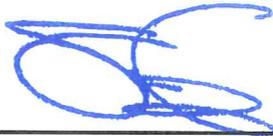
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

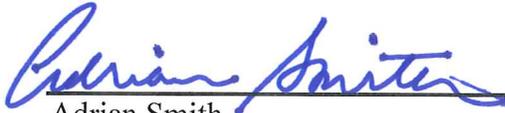
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



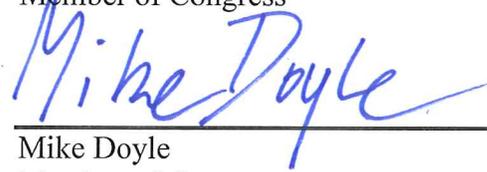
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress



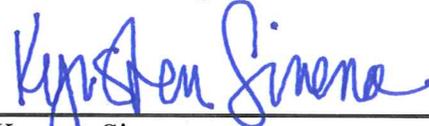
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



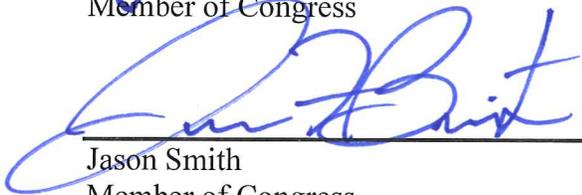
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



John Carney
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



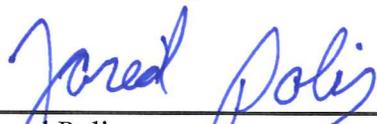
Steve King
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

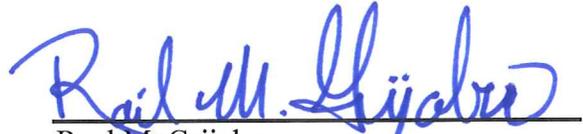


Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


John Fleming
Member of Congress


James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress


Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress

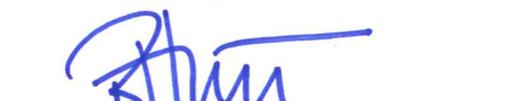

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress

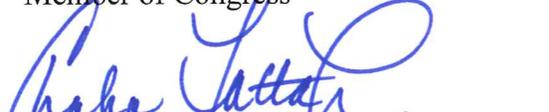

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress


Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress


Robert Hurt
Member of Congress


Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress


Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress


Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress


Todd Rokita
Member of Congress


Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Member of Congress